

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8018

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 177

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: EC/ACP SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 9083

B) EC BRUSSELS 8689

1. A TRAVELLING DELEGATION OF ACP SUGAR PRODUCERS HEADED BY JAMAICAN TRADE MINISTER PATERSON HAS CONCLUDED SEVERAL DAYS OF TALKS IN LONDON AND BRUSSELS WITH UK AND EC COM-MISSION OFFICIALS. THE DISCUSSIONS, THE LATEST PHASE IN THE EC/ACP NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT A NEW SUGAR ARRANGEMENT TO REPLACE THE COMMON WEALTH SUGAR AGREEMENT, FAILED TO PRODUCE AGREEMENT ON A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PRICE FOR THE SUGAR.

2. A CONSIDERABLE GAP REMAINS BETWEEN THE EC OFFER AND THE ACP DEMAND. THE EC'S CURRENT BEST OFFER IS REPORTEDLY 145 POUNDS STERLING PER METRIC TON, C.I.F. THE ACP'S ARE REPORTEDLY HOLDING OUT FOR A MINIMUM 180-200 POUNDS STERLING HOWEVER. IT SHOULD BE RE-CALLED (REF A) THAT THE EC OFFER ALSO CONTAINS A

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PROVISION FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENTS, BY UK REFINERS,

ABOVE THIS BASE PRICE OF 145 POUNDS TO ENSURE THAT BRITAIN GETS THE SUGAR IT NEEDS IN THE CURRENT SHORT-AGE PERIOD. THIS SUPPLEMENT WAS THE MAIN SUBJECT OF THE ACP CONVERSATIONS IN LONDON.

3. SOME OF THE ACP SUGAR OFFICIALS HAVE NOW GONE ON TO DAKAR FOR THE ACP MINISTERIAL (DEC. 17-19) TO REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE SUGAR TALKS. SOURCES IN BRUSSELS DO NOT NOW EXPECT SUBSTANTIVE TALKS ON THE PRICE OF SUGAR TO RESUME UNTIL AFTER THE CHRISTMAS RECESS.GREENWALD

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